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Remarks

MAR 19 2007

**1. Summary of Office Action**

In the Office Action mailed January 8, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Fortman et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,987,100 ("Fortman"), in view of Shimada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,789,263 ("Shimada"). The Examiner objected to claims 6 and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner admitted that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

**2. Response to the Claim Objections and Claim Rejections**

Applicants have cancelled the previously withdrawn claims 15-27 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claim 6, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 6, and Applicants have cancelled claim 6. As a result, claim 1 now recites the subject matter of claim 6 that the Examiner stated would be allowable in independent format. Therefore, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

As noted above, Applicants have cancelled claim 6. Therefore the rejection of this claim is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the right to pursue this claim in a continuing application.

Claims 2-5 and 7-14 each depend ultimately from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claim 7, Applicants have added new claim 28, which includes all the limitations of original claim 7. As a result, claim 28 now recites the

subject matter of claim 7 that the Examiner stated would be allowable in independent format. Therefore claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

By making the amendments noted above, Applicants do not acquiesce in the claim rejections. However, Applicants have made the claim amendments without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution.

Now pending in this application are claims 1-5, 7-14, and 28, of which claims 1 and 28 are independent, and the remainder are dependent. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request notice to that effect.

#### 5. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 7-14, and 28 are in condition for allowance. Applicants thus respectfully request favorable reconsideration. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with the undersigned, the Examiner is welcome to call the undersigned at (312) 913-2141.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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